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~~We~~ claim:

*Sub A* } 1. A computer readable memory containing a computer program for programming a general purpose computer to perform a method for filtering a block of text data containing words received over a network, wherein said method comprises the steps of:

- a) providing a listing of target words;
- b) comparing each word in said block of text data to said listing to determine any words in said block of text data which matches one of said target words in said listing; and
- c) replacing at least one word in said block of text data which matches one of said target words in said listing with a replacement-word to provide a new block of text data.

2. A computer readable memory as in claim 1, further comprising:

providing a respective replace-variable associated with each of said target words in said listing, each said replace-variable being set to either a true state or a false state; and

replacing each said word in said block of text data that matches one of said target words in said listing having its respective replace-variable set to a true state with a replacement-word to provide a new block of text data.





comprising:

providing a respective score-variable associated with each of said target words in said listing, each said score-variable having a numerical value;

determining a total score for said block of text data based on the respective score-variable associated with each word in said block of text data which matches one of said target words in said listing; and

replacing said new block of text data with a substitute block of data if said total score for said block of text data exceeds a predetermined numerical threshold.

9. A computer based method as in claim 8, wherein said method further comprises providing a respective bonus score-variable associated with each of said target words in said listing, each said bonus score-variable having a numerical value, and wherein said total score for said block of text data is determined based also on the respective bonus score-variable associated with each word in said block of text data which matches one of said target words in said listing.

10. A computer based method in claim 9, wherein said total score for said block of text data is determined also based on the proximity of each word in said block of text data which matches one of said target words in said listing to another word in said block of text data which matches one of

said target words in said listing.

11. A computer based method for filtering a web page received over the World Wide Web and providing an output, said web page having a header portion, a body portion and an associated requested URL, said method comprising the steps of:

- a) providing an allow-list of URLs associated with approved web pages;
- b) providing a deny-list of URLs associated with disapproved web pages;
- c) providing a listing of target words;
- d) comparing said requested URL with said URLs in said allow-list, and if said requested URL matches any of said URLs in said allow-list, providing the web page as an output;
- e) if said requested URL does not match any of said URLs in said allow-list, comparing said requested URL with said URLs in said deny-list, and, if said requested URL matches any of said URLs in said deny-list, providing an output indicating access to the web page is forbidden;
- f) if said requested URL does not match any of said URLs in said deny-list, providing a computer based filter for comparing each word in the header of the web page to said listing to determine any word in the header of the web page which matches one of said target words in said listing; and
- g) providing an indication that access to the web page is forbidden or a modified version of the web page as an output

if a word in the header of the web page matches one of said target words in said listing.

12. A computer based method as in claim 11, further comprising:

providing a computer based filter for comparing each word in the body of the web page to said listing to determine any word in the body of the web page which matches one of said target words in said listing; and

providing an indication that access to the web page is forbidden or a modified version of the web page as an output if a word in the body of the web page matches one of said target words in said listing.

13. A computer system for filtering a block of text data containing words received over a network, comprising:

a general purpose computer; and

a set of instructions for programming said general purpose computer to:

a) provide a listing of target words;

b) compare each word in said block of text data to said listing to determine a word in said block of text data which matches one of said target words in said listing; and

c) replace a word in said block of text data which matches one of said target words in said listing with a replacement-word to provide a new block of text data.

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14. A computer system as in claim <sup>20</sup>13, wherein said general purpose computer is further programmed in step c to:

provide a respective replace-variable associated with each of said target words in said listing, each said replace-variable being set to either a true state or a false state; and

replace each said word in said block of text data that matches one of said target words in said listing having its respective replace-variable set to a true state with a replacement-word to provide a new block of text data.

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15. A computer system as in claim 13, wherein said general purpose computer is further programmed to:

provide a respective score-variable associated with each of said target words in said listing, each said score-variable having a numerical value;

determine a total score for said block of text data based on the respective score-variable associated with each word in said block of text data which matches one of said target words in said listing; and

replace said new block of text data with a substitute block of data if said total score for said block of text data exceeds a predetermined numerical threshold.

16. A computer system as in claim 15, wherein said general purpose computer is further programmed to provide a

respective bonus score-variable associated with each of said target words in said listing, each said bonus score-variable having a numerical value, and wherein said total score for said block of text data is determined based also on the respective bonus score-variable associated with each word in said block of text data which matches one of said target words in said listing.

17. A computer system as in claim 15, wherein said total score for said block of text data is determined based also on the proximity of each word in said block of text data which matches one of said target words in said listing to another word in said block of text data which matches one of said target words in said listing.

18. A computer based method for filtering a block of text data containing words received over a network, said method comprising the steps of:

- a) providing a listing of target words;
- b) providing a respective category-variable associated with each of said target words in said listing for expressing a category with which each of said target words in said listing is associated;
- c) comparing each word in said block of text data to said listing to determine any word in said block of text data which matches one of said target words in said listing; and



c) providing an output comprising a record of the respective categories with which each target word in said listing which matches a word in said block of text data is associated.

19. A computer based method as in claim 18, further comprising:

providing a respective score-variable associated with each of said target words in said listing, each said score-variable having a numerical value;

determining a total category score for said block of text data based on the respective score-variable and category-variable associated with each word in said block of text data which matches one of said target words in said listing;

providing said total category score for each category in said output.

<sup>17</sup>20. A computer based method as in claim <sup>16</sup>19, further comprising:

replacing said block of text data with a substitute block of data if said total category score for a category exceeds a predetermined numerical threshold.

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